

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. ~~A system for selectively detecting the presence of a~~
plurality of objects in proximity to a person comprising:
a plurality of child units each having a first
communicating device for sending a locator signal and for
receiving a control signal;
a parent unit having a second communicating device for
receiving the locator signal from at least one of the plurality
of child units, electronic means for monitoring the at least one
child unit and for determining whether the at least one child
unit is within a preselected range, at least one alarm for
producing a humanly perceptible alarm when the at least one child
unit is outside the preselected range, and controls for
selectively controlling the child units to be monitored and for
~~controlling activation of the child units.~~

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the processor of the
parent unit comprises a microprocessor.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the processor of the
parent unit comprises at least one of analog and digital

circuitry.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second communicating devices comprise a first and a second transceiver.

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5. ~~The system of claim 1 wherein the electronic means comprises a first global positioning device associated with the parent unit and a second global positioning device associated with the child unit for providing global positions of the child unit and the parent unit, the global positions for determining a relative position of the child unit with respect to the parent unit.~~

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6. The system of claim 1 wherein the first communicating device of the child unit comprises a control mechanism for sending a signal to the second communicating device for locating the parent unit with the child unit.

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7. The system of claim 1 wherein the processor of the parent unit is programmed to de-activate the second communicating device of the parent unit and the first communicating device of each of the plurality of child units when certain external

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communication signals are detected by the second communication device.

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~~8. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one alarm of the parent unit comprises a speaker for indicating when the selected child unit is outside the preselected range.~~

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9. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one alarm of the parent unit comprises a vibrator for silently indicating when the selected child unit is outside the preselected range.

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10. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one alarm of the parent unit comprises at least one light for indicating when the selected child unit is outside the preselected range.

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11. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one alarm of the parent unit comprises a vibrator for silently indicating when the selected child unit is outside a first preselected range, a light for indicating a visual signal when the selected child unit is outside a second preselected range, and a speaker for indicating an audible signal when the selected child unit is outside a third preselected range.

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12. The system of claim 1 wherein the parent unit includes a mechanism for temporarily terminating signals between the second communicating device of the parent unit and the first communicating device of each of the plurality of child units, and an adjustable timer for selecting a period of temporary termination of the communication signals.

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13. The system of claim 1 wherein the parent unit includes a tracking mechanism for assisting the person to locate at least one of the plurality of child units with the parent unit.

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14. The system of claim 13 wherein the child unit includes an alarm mechanism for producing a humanly perceptible alarm when signaled by the tracking mechanism of the parent unit.

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15. The system of claim 13 wherein the tracking mechanism includes a display for indicating the proximity of the at least one child unit to the parent unit.

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16. The system of claim 1 wherein the controls of the parent unit for selectively controlling the child units include a mechanism for adjusting the preselected range at which the at

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least one alarm will signal the person when the selected child unit is outside of the preselected range.

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17. The system of claim 1 wherein said first and second communicating devices each comprise digital communicating devices.

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~~18. The system of claim 1 wherein said controls comprise means for selective activation of at least one of the child units, wherein the selective activation includes means for deactivating the locator signal of the first communicating device.~~

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19. The system of claim ~~A~~ wherein the at least one alarm is a variable alarm that varies according to the distance between the parent unit and the at least one child unit.

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